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**SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL-MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS
IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

October 1985

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

Analysts: LaVerle Berry
Robert Handloff
Mary Louise Harmon
R. Thomas Lenaghan
Kenneth Liberstein
Rachel Warner

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PREFACE

This chronology is organized by region, country, and date of event. The date of event is sometimes difficult to determine because it varies from source to source. Some sources cite the actual date of the incident whereas others appear to use the official news release dateline. When possible, the actual date of the occurrence is listed.

Analysts contributing to this chronology are LaVerle Berry, Robert Handloff, Mary Louise Harmon, R. Thomas Lenaghan, Kenneth Liberstein, and Rachel Warner.

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East/Central Africa

Tanzania

27/10/85

During elections for a president to succeed Julius Nyerere, Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the sole candidate, is chosen as the country's second leader since independence in 1961. Mwinyi, the former President of Zanzibar, was picked by Nyerere and the country's sole political party, the Revolutionary Party, to lead the country. Although he is stepping aside as president, Nyerere will remain chairman of the party for 2 more years, a position from which he will continue to wield great influence over government policies.

Uganda

23/09/85

A Libyan C-130 military transport plane lands in Entebbe loaded with military hardware. The arrival of the arms shipment coincides with the arrival in Nairobi, Kenya, of the Chairman of Uganda's Military Council, Tito Okello, for the beginning of peace talks between the Ugandan Government and the guerrilla National Resistance Movement (NRA). Libyan military support to Uganda exemplifies Libya's support of the Okello government in its armed struggle with the NRA.

21/10/85

The newspaper, Munno, which is linked to the Roman Catholic Church, reports that government and rebel troops both suffered heavy casualties in recent fighting around Mbarara, a major western town which has been under NRA control for the past 2 months.

29/10/85

NRA leader Yoweri Museveni announces that no cease-fire accord has been reached with the government despite the NRA's offer to stop fighting while peace talks are underway in Nairobi, Kenya. Three earlier sessions, during which NRA and government negotiators discussed a peaceful solution to the country's internal strife, produced no agreement.

Horn of Africa

Ethiopia

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23/09/85 The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) announces the suspension of secret negotiations that have been taking place with the Ethiopian regime since September 1982. Ten preliminary meetings have already been held between EPLF and government negotiators to pave the way for direct public peace negotiations. The EPLF claims that the government is resorting to diplomatic tricks to thwart any agreement for a peaceful settlement of the Eritrean question.

04/10/85 A Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) spokesman announces in London that TPLF guerrillas killed or wounded 800 Ethiopian government troops and expanded the area under TPLF control following a government offensive in southeast Tigray Province. The fighting began 2 days before around Makale in southern Tigray Province, during which TPLF guerrillas took control of the garrison town of Chercher.

16/10/85 An EPLF military communique circulated in Kuwait claims that its guerrillas killed 450 Ethiopian government troops and shot down a MiG-23 fighter plane during fighting in Halhal, Nakfa, and the plains of the northern Eritrean coastline. Government troops launched a large-scale attack in Eritrea Province a few days earlier following the announcement by the EPLF about suspension of peace talks.

Somalia/Ethiopia

21/10/85 The Somali Defense Ministry claims that Somali troops killed 59 Ethiopian soldiers and captured tanks and ammunition during an attack by Ethiopian government troops at Khadar in the northwest the day before. Somalia also claims that in another Ethiopian attack at Anod, five Ethiopian soldiers were killed. These clashes are the latest in a series of incidents between the two countries, the result of a longstanding territorial dispute.

Sudan

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- 01/10/85 Sudanese leader Siwardahab announces the lifting of zakat, the Islamic form of taxation that had been implemented as part of former President Numeiri's islamization policy. The repeal and return to a western system of taxation is a concession to the demands of southern Sudanese who vehemently oppose the imposition of Sharia law. It will provide more regularity to the system of tax collection and generate additional revenue for the suffering national economy.
- 13/10/85 Following several days of talks between Sudanese Minister of Defense Abdallah and his Egyptian counterpart, Sudanese Prime Minister Dafallah arrives in Cairo for an official visit with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Discussions focus on Sudanese-Egyptian cooperation, the extradition of former Sudanese President Numeiri, and the status of the Sudanese-Libyan military pact signed earlier this year. The top level meetings between Egyptian and Sudanese officials reflect Sudan's intention of adhering to its newly adopted good neighborly foreign policy, while retaining special deference to its traditional ally.
- 17/10/85 The Ministerial Election Committee passes a bill legalizing the formation of political parties in Sudan. The legislative act will officially democratize the Sudanese political system which had previously been a one-party state under President Numeiri. The measure seems consistent with the professed intentions of the Siwardahab government to hold elections next April and relinquish control to a civilian head of state.
- 29/10/85 The Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) agree to the imposition of a 2-week cease-fire. The cessation in fighting, which had escalated during September in the southern region between Bor and Juba, offers an opportunity for negotiation and a potential end to the southern insurgency. The repeal of Islamic law, the formation of a provisional national unity government, and

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the abrogation of treaties with Libya and Egypt are among SPLA leader John Garang's demands for the resolution of the conflict.

Sahel

Burkina/Mali

11/10/85 Burkinabe Minister of Internal Affairs Norbert Nongma Ouedraogo announces that Burkina and Mali are following a two-pronged path towards settlement of their longstanding border dispute. The two nations have agreed to try and resolve their differences through bilateral negotiations and submission of their cases to the International Court of Justice at The Hague. This new desire to settle the Malian border question represents an effort by the Burkinabe Government to preempt the possibility of the establishment of opposition groups to the Sankara government in Mali.

Chad

05/10/85 Chadian President Hissein Habre discloses that efforts are being made for the organization of a summit meeting between Chad and Libya. At the same time, he reveals the development of flights over N'Djamena by the Libyan Air Force and intensification of these flights over the southern part of Chad. In Habre's view, Qadhafi has not abandoned any of his ambitions toward Chad and has taken advantage of the recent military lull to establish an extensive intelligence system in the northern part of Chad.

16/10/85 A spokesman for Goukouni Oueddei denies a statement issued in Tripoli that Oueddei, the head of Chad's opposition Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT), had been deposed as leader of the Popular Armed Forces (FAP). The statement follows an unsuccessful bid in September by GUNT's Chief of General Staff Goukouni Mahamat Gued and Tactical Bureau Chief Moussa Togou to seize control from Oueddei. Both Gued and Togou have since been dismissed from their posts. The Deputy Chief of General Staff is functioning as Acting Chief until an incumbent is appointed.

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Sahel/West Africa

Burkina/Ghana

18/09/85 Burkinabe Head of State Sankara holds discussions with a Ghanaian delegation headed by Major Asakye Agyema, Deputy Director for National Security. The talks reaffirm the principle of close cooperation between the two nations in matters relating to national security. After the conference, Major Agyema states that a mutual defense pact is in effect. Relations between Ghana and Burkina continue to grow closer.

Southern Africa

Angola/South Africa

01/10/85 The Angolan Ministry of Defense confirms in a communique sent to Lisbon by the Angolan news agency, ANGOP, that a massive South African attack resulted in more than 50 deaths and dozens of injuries to Angolan Army regular soldiers. According to Luanda, South African fighter planes attacked on 30 September in the area of Mavinga, 250 kilometers from the southern border in Cuando Cubango Province, in support of National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) positions. Meanwhile, as the result of charges made by the Angolan Ministry of Defense that South African aircraft and soldiers are engaged in battle between Angolan and UNITA forces in Mavinga, South African President Botha admits for the first time, during the Cape Congress of the ruling National Party, that South African military forces are helping UNITA rebels fight Angolan government troops.

Lesotho

08/10/85 Lesotho Security Forces kill two Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA) terrorists at Khubetsona on the outskirts of the capital, Maseru. A large quantity of firearms and ammunition are confiscated.

Mozambique/South Africa

01/10/85 Mozambican Security Minister Sergio Vieira announces during a press conference in Maputo that Mozambique has evidence that the South African military never intended to honor the Nkomati nonaggression pact signed in March 1984 between the two countries, and deliberately resupplied the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) with large amounts of

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arms before the pact was signed. The evidence is contained in the diary of a RENAMO guerrilla which was left behind at RENAMO's captured headquarters in the Gorongozo mountains.

17/10/85 The work of the joint Mozambican-South African security committee, charged with monitoring violations of the Nkomati Accord, is suspended at the request of Mozambican President Machel. The suspension is a manifestation of Mozambique's growing disillusionment with South African intentions to honor the Nkomati Accord.

South Africa

12/10/85 White opposition politicians to the ruling National Party, anxious to solve the country's racial conflict, meet with top officials of the African National Congress (ANC) in Zambia. President Botha, who condemned a similar meeting last month by three prominent white businessmen, makes no comment on this session between the four legislators of the Progressive Federal Party and four ANC leaders.

17/10/85 A crowd of 300 blacks spills onto the streets of the partly white Cape Town suburb of Woodstock after a speech there by Bishop Desmond Tutu. Confrontations between protesters and the police continue for a third straight day in another Cape Town suburb, Athlone. At Stellenbosch University near Cape Town, officials withdraw the passports of eight white students who were to have traveled to Zambia later in the month to meet ANC representatives. The officials also interrupt a church meeting to seize the passports of two priests who were to have accompanied the students to Zambia. All of these incidents characterize the continuing unrest which is gripping the country and the government's repressive response to it.

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- 18/10/85 Despite international appeals for clemency, ANC militant Benjamin Moloise is hanged in Pretoria for his role in the 1982 murder of a security policeman. Following Moloise's execution, thousands of blacks rampage for the first time in 12 months of nationwide violence through central Johannesburg. Meanwhile, South African authorities order hundreds of armed troops into Cape Town's mixed-race suburb of Athlone after the police came under fire on six occasions. It is the first time in 14 months of unrest in the country that the police acknowledge sustained armed attacks against them.
- 22/10/85 An interracial group of South African clerics announces plans to travel to Zambia to meet with ANC leaders in the aftermath of the withdrawal of the passports of eight students the previous week. President Botha characterizes the planned visit, along with other attempts by South Africans to meet with his exiled adversaries, as a challenge to the state's authority. Some South African commentators interpret the flurry of planned visits to Zambia as a lack of confidence among some South Africans about the government's inability to resolve racial violence in black townships over the last 14 months.
- 28/10/85 The United Democratic Front (UDF) and more than 100 other organizations are banned from holding meetings in Cape Town and surrounding areas. The restriction, including civic, political, student, and religious groups most associated with the UDF, follows the declaration the week before of a state of emergency in Cape Town and of neighboring districts, and the detention of most UDF leaders in the Cape Town area.
- 29/10/85 Racial violence continues in many parts of the country. A conflict between the Zulu Inkatha movement and the more radical UDF results in the assassination of Inkatha leader Francis Dlamini outside his home in Kwamashu, a black township outside of Durban. The Dlamini murder follows the

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August gasoline bombing of the Umlazi home of a UDF supporter.

30/10/85 The extreme right party, the Herstigte Nasionale, wins a seat in special elections for five vacant seats in the white-controlled central Parliament, upsetting the ruling National Party. For the Herstigte Nasionale, which took 51 percent of the vote in the blue-collar industrial region south of Johannesburg, it is the first time in its 16 years of existence that it has captured a seat in Parliament. The election results reflect white discontent with the government's handling of racial unrest and the economy.

31/10/85 Continuing violent unrest in Cape Town's black townships results in a regulation allowing the Minister of Law and Order to extend, during the state of emergency, periods of arrest with neither notice nor hearing. Since the government extended the emergency decree on 25 October, more than 200 persons have been arrested in Cape Town, including 100 mixed-race students and teachers accused of joining in the unrest. The violence in Cape Town broke out 3 months ago after thousands gathered for a rally organized by the UDF where participants were urged to fight apartheid through boycotts of schools and white businesses. Since then, more than 60 people have died, and fire damage has been considerable.

Zimbabwe
06/10/85

A school headmaster is killed by Zimbabwe African People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA) guerrillas in western Zimbabwe, bringing to 50 the number of people reported killed in violence in the area since the elections in July. Most of those killed were supporters of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) party. This latest attack comes 4 days after talks began on uniting the deeply divided ZANU and Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) parties.

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06/10/85 Five senior army officers, all former ZIPRA guerrillas who had been arrested in the previous 2 weeks, continue to be detained by security police. The arrests were made with little regard for unity talks between ZANU and ZAPU, and eliminate the ZIPRA presence in the top ranks of the army.

West Africa

Central African Republic

21/09/85 Head of State Andre Kolingba dissolves the Military Committee of National Recovery (CMRN) and establishes a new government which includes a number of civilians. Kolingba remains both head of government and Minister of Defense. Six military ministers leave the government, including Colonel Alphonse Gombade, former Minister of State in charge of rural development, and Lieutenant Clement Michel N'Gai Voueto, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Voueto is replaced by Jean-Louis Psimhis, former ambassador to Belgium. Five other civilians join the government now composed of 18 ministers and 4 secretaries of state. Kolingba had announced on several occasions in the past the inclusion of civilians in the government. At present, a Parliament is being formed in the capital, Bangui.

Ghana

29/09/85 A dispute between the Kusasi and Mamprussi rival ethnic groups in the Upper East region of Ghana culminates in 7 days of armed clashes, leaving 13 dead and scores injured. The central government dispatches a combined army and police force to the area, resulting in over 167 arrests. The recent violence follows a lull of several months in the longstanding conflict between the two groups over land and rights to traditional leadership.

Guinea

17/09/85 The Defense Ministry announces the formation of a new security police unit which will check the identities of all persons found on the streets of the capital after midnight. This development is in response to the growing rate of violent crime in Conakry.

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Ivory Coast

12/10/85 President Houphouet-Boigny ends months of speculation on his successor by having the National Assembly alter the constitution and abolish the post of vice president, which was created 5 years ago but has never been filled. Prior to the presidential elections held in mid-October, Houphouet-Boigny was to designate a candidate for vice president and presumed political heir. Under the constitutional amendment now in effect, should the president leave office for any reason, the chair of the National Assembly--currently Henri Konan Bedie--will run the country for an interim period of 45 to 60 days during which he will call for new elections. The constitutional amendment came about as the result of Houphouet's displeasure with the constant bickering among officials bidding for the nomination.

15/10/85 During a lengthy press conference, President Houphouet-Boigny reveals details about ongoing contacts between Ivory Coast and Israel, and makes an overture for the renewal of diplomatic ties with the Jewish state. Although Ivory Coast broke diplomatic ties with Israel in 1973, Israeli firms and capital have been present in Ivory Coast. The move was not unexpected in view of earlier comments from the state-owned newspaper expressing deep disappointment with Arab diplomatic and economic initiatives toward Africa.

28/10/85 President Houphouet-Boigny is reelected in an undisputed campaign. More than 98 percent of the more than 3.5 million registered voters cast ballots, and close to 99 percent of the voters endorse the president for another 5-year term. Since Ivory Coast gained its independence in 1960, Houphouet-Boigny has run unopposed for the presidency in six elections.

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Liberia

25/09/85 President Doe orders the release of Liberian Action Party (LAP) Executive Board Member Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, along with the 14 students arrested in early August for allegedly passing military secrets to the Soviets. This move demonstrates Doe's desire to cultivate his image and improve relations with the United States which have been particularly strained as a result of Sirleaf's detention.

27/10/85 According to reliable unofficial sources, it appears that the opposition candidate for president, Jackson Doe of the Liberian Action Party (LAP), actually won the popular vote in the election of 15 October with 63 percent of the total vote. President Samuel Doe's National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL) received less than 10 percent of the vote in some areas and reportedly did not even succeed in carrying President Doe's home area of Grand Gedeh where the majority of the members of his Krahn tribe voted against him. Nevertheless, President Doe is declared by the Chairman of the Special Elections Commission to be the winner of the elections. According to these official tallies, President Doe received 50.9 percent of the vote. Accusations that the LAP bribed certain election officials have been used to justify discounting much of the LAP vote. Given President Doe's extremely low popularity with everyone except the military, today's events are likely to increase the chances of some sort of coup attempt since that would appear to be the only method of dislodging Doe from office.

Sierra Leone

07/10/85 Major-General Joseph S. Momoh is declared President-Elect by Chief Justice Eben Livesy Luke following the 7 October elections in which Momoh was the only candidate. Momoh is not expected to retire from the Army, despite previous statements by President Siaka Stevens to the effect that he would have to resign his commission before taking office. Momoh will probably be sworn in as president in November. The stage finally seems set for the long-awaited transfer of power from Stevens to his chosen successor. The fact that Momoh may continue to function as Army Chief indicates his desire to maximize his control of the military during a period of instability.

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Togo

04/10/85

Akue Omer Adote, one of 30 persons arrested for "subversive" activities, dies while in government custody, supposedly as the result of arterial hypertension. Meanwhile, the Paris-based Togolese Democratic Movement (MTD) claims that the Togolese Government has arrested over 200 citizens. The MTD, which is supported by Amnesty International, is seeking to mobilize international opinion. The government has not publicly charged any of those arrested, but it is believed that charges will involve the distribution of material unfavorable to Head of State General Gnassingbe Eyadema.